

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



17727  
78 F22  
1/3



*Heading for the last  
1947 round-up!*

## 1947 FARM LABOR PROGRAM

Extension Service

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, 25, D. C.

### September 1 Situation

Agriculture is heading for the last roundup of labor to handle 1947 crops. Despite adverse weather conditions in some states, it is another top year for production in most farm areas. Grain and other early and mid-summer crops have been safely put away. Harvesting of fruits and vegetables is moving into the spotlight from coast to coast; potatoes soon will be falling into line. All these, plus cotton, peanuts, rice and sugarcane in the south, cotton in the southwest, and sugarbeets from Ohio west, will keep a vast army of workers busy until frost is in the ground. After that, winter crops in Florida, Texas, California and other sun-favored spots will call for services of many migratory workers who have finished jobs elsewhere.

Fruit and vegetable crops are heavy in most areas. Acreages of potatoes are down from last year, but it is indicated that yields will be high. Cotton is heavier than in any of the preceding emergency years and demand for labor is sharply on the upswing. Sugarbeet acreages have soared again and promise to produce the knotty labor problem of the year. Increased availability of harvesting machinery will ease demand for labor in handling potatoes, sugarbeets, peanuts, rice and sugarcane, but demand for hand worker's will continue to reach into many thousands.

Sugarbeet harvest labor normally is hard to get since it is stoop labor adaptable only to men, and involves repetitive tasks which many workers shun. This problem will be accentuated this year because sugarbeet harvesting normally attracts men who work in cotton. When the cotton crop has been light they have turned to sugarbeets. This year many will prefer to remain in cotton, since the crop is good, and because all members of the family can work, and family earnings will considerably exceed what they alone could obtain working sugarbeets.

### Labor Supply

Thus far in 1947, the supply of labor has been adequate and sometimes in surplus. The flow of domestic workers has expanded. The number of foreign workers has been steadily decreasing and has reached the lowest level



since importations were started in 1943 as a wartime measure. At the moment, labor supply and demand are about in-balance thruout the country. There is very little unemployment and for those who want seasonal or year-round farm jobs there is steady work. As soon as one crop runs out, another quickly rises to take its place. There is no need for farm workers to lose time, except as they move from area to area.

Demand for labor is now quickening and as harvesting approaches the mid-September level fresh seasonal supplies of transient workers will have been taken up, peak demands in many crops will pyramid, and calls for more and more workers will be heard in most producing states. There will be part or full time jobs for men, women, youth and family groups, with demand varying from state to state and often from county to county within a state.

### How These Jobs Are Obtained

Persons who want seasonal or year-round farm jobs should listen for calls for help from state farm labor supervisors, county agricultural agents and community leaders. These calls will come thru local newspapers, radio stations and other information avenues. There will be no nationwide newspaper, radio or advertising calls to the farm front. All information as to when and where workers are needed, how many, what type--men, women, youth or family groups--and duration of employment, will come only from local sources. Many will obtain work thru direct contacts with farmers. Extension Farm Labor offices will cooperate with those who want assistance in locating jobs.

### Pay For This Work

Workers will be paid hourly or piece work wages which generally are higher than last year. These vary between areas and between communities within areas. Seasonal farm jobs offer unusual opportunities for those who seek extra work to supplement annual income thru regular employment.

### New Information Materials

From the Federal Extension office one new piece of Farm Labor information has become available since the 1947 Information Program was published last May. It is a 42-page booklet--"Association Management of Camps for Migratory Farm Workers"--and is obtainable thru Extension Information office, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

### Changes in Farm Labor Personnel Listing

Since the roster of state Farm Labor supervisors, Extension editors and Farm Labor information assistants was published in the May 1 Fact Sheet, the following changes in personnel and in telephone numbers have been made, and these should be entered in the original listing if you are preserving it as a source of Farm Labor or other agricultural information:

Colorado--Fred O. Ford, new State farm labor supervisor succeeding Hamman.  
Florida--H. S. McLendon, new State farm labor supervisor succeeding DeBusk.  
Maine--Change phone number to 2048 and eliminate extension number.  
Massachusetts--Change Mass. State College to University of Massachusetts.  
Montana--R. B. Haight, new State farm labor supervisor succeeding Dusenberry.  
Wisconsin--Add Badger 580, Ext. 259 as telephone number for Mr. Mucks.